gineering products, footwear and footwear components;

(b) whether export of such sub-standard goods have adversely affected the country's reputation.

(c) whether Government have ordered any CBI enquiry in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to withdraw this exemption;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) Some letter have been received expressing such misgivings. But no specific complaint as such has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Exemption has been granted from compulsory preshipment inspection in the case of those exporters, like Star Trading Houses, Trading Houses and Export Houses considering that they have established their credentials in markets abroad.

GATT talks held in Brussels

102. SHRI SURESH KALMADI Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the GATT talks were recently held in Brussels; and

(b) if so, who represented India in those talks and what is the outcome thereof?

THS DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) to (d) Uruguay Round of Ministerial level meeting was held at Brussels on 3—7 December, 1990.

The following persons represented India in this context:—

1. Dr. Subramanian Swamy, Commerce Minister.

2. Shri S. P. Shukla, Commerce Secretary.

3. Shri B. K. Zutshi, Ambassador (GATT).

4. Shri A. Hoda, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

5. Shri Lalit Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

6. Shri P. Shankar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Texfiles.

7. Shri Atul Chaturvedi, Counsellor (GATT).

8. Shri Ashok Sajjanhar, First Secretary (GATT).

9. Ms Jayashree Watal, Dy. Secretary, Ministry of Industry.

In addition Dr. S. Vedaraman, former Controller-General of Patents, was an Adviser to the delegation. The delegation was also assisted by Shri Arjun Sengupta, Ambassador of India to EEC and other members of the Embassy Staff.

The Ministerial meeting failed to make definitive progress on any of the issues under discussion because of the stalemate in negotiations on trade in agriculture

Appointment of a Committee to probe into pending cases

103 SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 186 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd May, 1990 and state·

(a) whether the Committee constituted to probe into long pending cases in vari-

ous high courts has submitted any report to the Government; if so, when and what were its recommendations; and

(b) whether any action has since been initiated on any of these recommendations; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY) (a) and (b) The Report of the Committee was received by the Government in September, 1990 These recommendations pertain to State Governments, the High Courts, some of the Central Ministries and the Judiciary itself. These recommendations cover various aspects like jurisdictional and procedural modifications|improvements in the judiciary, setting up of specialised bodies such as tribunals|commissions to deal with specific types of cases, fixation of judge strength and appointments of Judges in High Courts, creation of more posts in the Subordinate judiciary and a number of other general recommendations relating to modernisation of office equipment in courts and allocation of more funds to the judiciary improvement in day to day working of the Courts, etc. These recommendations have been forwarded to all concerned such as State Governments, the Central Ministries and the High Courts

Price, Production and Import of Rubber

104. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what had been the highest and the lowest price of natural rubber during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) how much rubber had been imported during this period, year-wise;

(c) what had been the production of natural rubber during this period year-wise; and

(d) what steps are being taken to increase the production of natural rubber?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) The details of price of natural rubber during the last 3 years has been as under:—

Price in Rs. per quintal

Year	Highest	Lowest
1987-88	1880	1730
1988-89	1935	1740
1989-90	2650	1835

(b) The details of import of natural rubber during the last 3 years has been as under.—

(*In metric tonnes*)

Year	*Quantity*
1987-88	41,984
1988-89	51,363
1989-90	26,549

(c) The details of production of natural rubber during last 3 years has been as under:—

(in metric tonnes)

Year	Quantity
1987-88	2,35,197
1988-89	2 59,172
1989-90	2,97,300

(d) The following measures are now implemented by the Rubber Board to enhance production of natural rubber:—

(1) Granting financial and technical assistance for new planting and replanting and replanting under Rubber Plantation Development Scheme.

(2) Producing and distributing high yielding planting materials.

(3) Rendering advisory, extension and training services.

(4) Encouraging community processing and marketing among small holders

(5) Undertaking research on cultivation, production and processing of rubber

Production and export of cotton

105 SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) What is the estimated production of cotton for this year and the next year;